MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : What is the bid of the present contractor ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The rates are Rs. 2 as. 5 p. 6. and Rs. 7 as. 8 p. 0.

Toddy arrack is a necessary element which has to go with the jaggery contract.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Were there no other contractors besides the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd., Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co. and Fraser and Ross ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Co., the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd. and Fraser and Ross C. A. were the only three tenderers for the contract.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was any security taken from the Receivers and Managers of the Nadar Estate ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : That question does not, I submit, arise I may say, however, that an agreement has been taken. That agreement is not with me. Therefore I am unable to answer the question now.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member is not in a position to answer that question now. Moreover, that does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Did other contractors, *viz.*, Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Company and the Managing Agents, Travancore Sugars, Ltd. offer to give any security for this contract ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Nothing is said in the question about security.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I want to know whether the Government are of opinion that the Receivers and Managers of the Nadar Estate could be held liable for any default on their part ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have already said that no question asking for an expression of opinion can be put under the Rules.

Place of Residence of the Irrigation Officer, Suchindram Section.

100. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the difficulty experienced by a certain section of the ryots of Agastisvaram in the matter of approaching the Irrigation Officer of the Suchindram Section, owing to the place of his residence in Suchindram being in a prohibited area ; and

(*b*) whether they noted the article referring to this in the weekly, the "Travancore Times", and whether they propose to remove the difficulty ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No. The Section Office is held in a private rented building by the side of the public road from Nagercoil to the Cape and it is accessible to the public.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the ryots of the Suchindram section of the taluk of Agastisvaram have to frequently interview the Section Officer for purposes connected with irrigation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That may be.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the Section Officer has his residence inside the Suchindram village where certain classes of the ryots are not permitted to enter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): But he has his office outside the village. The ryots can see him there.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the Section Officer is always to be seen at the office?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not always. The ryots must go to see him when he holds office.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there any complaint preferred to the Chief Engineer by the ryots that the Section Officer could not be interviewed at times when he was wanted by the ryots.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That question does not arise as a supplementary question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I ask you to rule whether the member can give it as his opinion that this question does not arise.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He is raising a point of order. That question does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether Government noted the article in the "Travancore Times" regarding the grievances of the ryots?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That question is answered in the answer to part (*b*).

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government get down the "Travancore Times"?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that now.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): At least, will the Government be pleased to direct the Section Officer to take his residence in another place outside the village where the ryots can reach him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot undertake that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government will vouchsafe to the effect that this Section Officer will always be seen in the Section Office?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question has already been answered. The Section Officer cannot always be in the office. He will be in the office only during office hours.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government cannot imagine occasions when the Officer will urgently be needed by the ryots?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Evidently, you want to thrust other things here. I do not know whether they are relevant.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): As a matter of fact—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You want an answer to the question where the Section Officer lives and whether he can be asked to live in another place.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, this is only in order to remove the grievances arising out of the Section Officer residing in a particular place.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It does not arise as a supplementary question here.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If the supplementary question does not arise, I have no desire to press it. Cannot the Government imagine several occasions when the Section Officer will be wanted very badly by the ryots—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order. The member is making a speech.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Cannot Government imagine an occasion when the Section Officer will be badly wanted by the ryots in connection with the irrigation of paddy fields and when he will not be at the Section Office so long as he lives in a village which some classes of people are prohibited from entering?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Government are capable of imagining such a situation but cannot act always upon imagination. Moreover, it is not natural.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Would not such a situation arise naturally in the ordinary course of events?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The proper way for the ryots would be to represent the matter to the Government and pray that this grievance should be removed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): But this is a standing grievance. Perhaps the Government have no idea of the hardship suffered by the people on account of this.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: But the Chief Secretary says that he has no idea that there is such a grievance.

(The President arrived at 11-58 A. M. and took the Chair.)

Deputation of Officers for Purchase of Ganja.

101. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the name or names of the persons deputed to British India for the purchase of ganja during the last six years (1096-1101);

(*b*) the place where the person so deputed was posted in Travancore when he was sent to British India for the same;

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